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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Dr. Jonathan Paolino and team to participate in Jimmy Fund Walk

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Dr. Jonathan Paolino will participate in the Jimmy Fund walk with his team this October. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Grove Street resident Dr. Jonathan Paolino will be participating w
team in October's Jimmy Fund Walk.

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A pediatric oncologist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, his interest in pediatrics started when he was an Army medic.

“I served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he says. “I realized then I really like working with kids. And I really like taking care of the really sick ones. Cancer in children is life-threatening, and if you cure them, you’re giving them a long healthy life.

“You join their families,” he adds. “I still get emails and cards from former patients.”

Paolino works at the Jimmy Fund, the pediatric cancer center at Dana-Farber where children are treated as outpatients.

The Paolino family, from left to right, Nolan, Andrew, Kimberly, Seraphina, Jacob, and Benjami
team with dad, Dr. Jonathan Paolino during October’s Jimmy Fund Walk. COURTESY PHOTO/PAO

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"Boston Children's Hospital is for inpatients and we move the children back and forth," he explains.

"The Jimmy Fund Walk is one of our biggest fundraisers" he adds. "I have a team, (The Friends of Heme-malignancy) [Paolino's medical specialty] which includes my wife and children. A few weeks ago, the kids raised about $2,000 at the town's transfer station. I'm so grateful to live in such a supportive place and that I've been really touched by the generosity of the Winchester community.

"The walk can be along the Boston Marathon route, but we'll do a 5K walk from Dana-Farber to the marathon finish line," he continues. "Our goal is to raise $20,000. Back in the 1950s, the cure rate was only 50% but the current survival rate is 80 to 90% and will continue to improve through treatment trials."

Which is what the Jimmy Fund patients participate in, and the funds raised in the walk are used exclusively for clinical trials.

"It pays for drugs, monitoring, regulatory fees, but not for salaries," he says.

A native of North Andover, Paolino was a pre-med student at the College of the Holy Cross and after his military service, he earned his medical degree at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center.

"I had my medical fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital," he says.

"Childhood leukemia is the most common cancer in kids and the leading cause of childhood cancer-related deaths," he adds. "And

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federal research money becoming tight, we depend on philanthropy. These trials are expensive to run."

When asked what he does in his free time, Paolino says, "I spend a lot of my free time working."

His patients typically undergo two years of chemotherapy, which he says "is an enormous undertaking for them and their families. And insurance doesn't cover drugs that are in clinical trials.

"We love taking care of the kids," Paolino says. "They're very sick during therapy, but they're resilient in a way that's inspiring and makes me want to do better."

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Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she's already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

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The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and

Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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